

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7 with the following:

This is a divisional application of U.S. patent application No. 09/468,818, filed December 22, 1999, in turn a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application No. 09/174,464 filed on October 19, 1998, now abandoned.

Please replace the heading at page 3, line 11, with the following:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 21, with the following:

Examples of the ethers having 3 to 12 carbon atoms include diisopropyl ether, dimethoxymethane, 1,4-dioxane, 1,3-dioxolane, tetrahydrofuran, anisole and ~~phenetol~~ phenetole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 70, line 25, with the following:

The rubbing directions in the optical compensatory sheets (R1, R2) is are preferably essentially parallel (or reversal parallel) to the rubbing directions in the liquid crystal cell (RP1, RP2). The transmission axes of the polarizing elements (PA, PB) are preferably essentially parallel or perpendicular to each other.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 6, with the following:

Upon checking the photograph, the discotic units in the optically anisotropic layer ~~was~~ were inclined from the surface plane of the support. The inclined angle continuously increased as the distance from the surface of the substrate increased.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 81, line 31, with the following:

Two optical compensatory sheets (1) ~~was~~ were arranged on both sides of the liquid crystal cell of a vertical alignment mode. The optically anisotropic layer of the optical compensatory sheet was faced with the glass plate of the liquid crystal cell. The rubbing direction of the orientation layer of the liquid crystal cell was reversely parallel to the rubbing direction of the orientation layer of the optical compensatory sheet. Two polarizing elements were arranged on the optical compensatory sheet according to a crossed nicols arrangement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 84, line 24, with the following:

Upon checking the photograph, the discotic units in the optically anisotropic layer ~~was~~ were inclined from the surface plane of the support. The inclined angle continuously increased as the distance from the surface of the substrate increased.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 85, line 10, with the following:

Two optical compensatory sheets (2) ~~was~~ were arranged on both sides of the liquid crystal cell of an optically compensatory bend mode. The optically anisotropic layer of the optical compensatory sheet was faced with the glass plate of the liquid crystal cell. The rubbing

direction of the orientation layer of the liquid crystal cell was reversely parallel to the rubbing direction of the orientation layer of the optical compensatory sheet. Two polarizing elements were arranged on the optical compensatory sheet according to a crossed nicols arrangement.